

Savior & Immanuel

2 Christmas passages – Luke and Matthew.

Luke 2:8-11 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord.

Savior – What does this mean? It means He has the power to save us. Save us from what? A lot. But most importantly from unrighteousness and from the wrath of God.

Romans 5:8-10 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

- We are justified by His blood – It is as if we did not have sin.
- We were enemies of God, facing His wrath, but His life has saved us.

This means that we can now be with God. Since we have been made righteous, we can stand in the presence of God.

- **2 Corinthians 5:21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- **Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Another Christmas passage

- **Matthew 1:21-23** - And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” ²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the

prophet, saying: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

- Jesus will save us from our sins. Again, Savior.
- But also, Immanuel – **God with us.** (Isaiah 7:14)

So within the birth of Jesus we see that **we can be with God and that God is with us.** But what does that mean, that we are with God and that God is with us?

- **Philippians 3:8-9** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ **and be found in Him**, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;
 - What does Paul mean that he may be found in Him?
 - He is referring to our union with Christ.

When we think of salvation do we think of a one-time event where we are reconciled with God, get a ticket to heaven and are now Christians? OR do we keep our eyes on that we are made righteous and can be with God.

When we think of the name Immanuel do we think of the time that God was with us in human form walking this earth for 33 years as one of us, or are we constantly reminded that this is God with us, God in us joined with us, living in us, Always?

I think it's important to see both.

1. When we are saved we are completely reconciled with God. At that moment we are made righteous. Our sins are completely forgiven and we are given new life. That is a moment in time.
 - a. **Acts 2:21** And it shall come to pass
*That whoever calls on the name of the Lord
Shall be saved.'*

- b. **Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
2. I believe the name Immanuel does mean that God Himself walked on this earth as a man, experiencing life as a human.
- **Philippians 2:5-7** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.
 - **Hebrews 4:15-16** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

But they also mean more than that. We are with Him. He is with us. Always. And we can remain in Him. Always.

Hebrews 9:6-8 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. ⁷ But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; ⁸ the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

Without Jesus, only the high priest could enter into the presence of God, and then only once a year. But I want to point something out here – He only entered into His presence. He did not have the life of God in Him. It was more like standing before the throne, but when he turned and left, the throne – and God on it - remained where it was.

Why did Jesus come into the world?

Ephesians 2:1-7 - And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the

prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Vs 1 - And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins

- Were we dead? Yes. Because we are spirit

Vs 4-5 - ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ

- He made us alive – but note – together with Christ
- We need to experience the divine life that God designed us to live in. The power of God flowing through us.
- Christ in us, through us, as us (explain the differences)

Vs 6 - and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

- Anywhere in the Bible where it talks of sitting or being seated (except when talking about relaxing) it means authority. This denotes having complete authority of Christ. How could we possibly have that unless we are constantly with Him?

There are multiple ways to live our lives here on this earth. Each way of living comes with it a cost and a consequence. We have to choose how we are going to live. We can make that choice by looking at what it will cost us, or we can make that choice by looking at the consequences that the choice will bring us.

- 1. We can live as though Jesus never came. There is no Immanuel. There is no Savior.**

- a. Cost – Low. We can steer our own ship. We do not live with Him, He does not live in us.
 - b. Consequence – Death. Not our physical bodies, but rather death to who we really are. Our spirit. We are eternal beings and ignoring that fact does not change it.
 - c. We do life alone. Whatever happens to us we face by ourselves.
- 2. We can live like Immanuel was a one-time event. He was Immanuel, but He is not Immanuel now. He saved us, and when we get to heaven we will be with Him.**
- a. Cost – Moderate. We accept Jesus as our Savior. We receive forgiveness of sins. We believe He came, we confess Him before others. We may even attend church, and sing songs of praise and maybe even tithe. If we want to. But our life is still ours to live.
 - b. Consequence – We then attempt to live out this Christian life in our own strength. We ask God for help in crisis and just hope He shows up. We constantly have to pray for more Holy Spirit. We have to cry out Come Lord Jesus, I need you. There is probably little victory in this life, but we do have eternal life. **The concept of Victorious living or abundant life** escapes us.
- 3. We can live like Immanuel is what the Bible says it is. God with us. Now. In us. And we can abide in Him.**
- a. Cost – High – We can't rely on our own strength. We have to acknowledge that our salvation was not by our work, and then our life after is not from our own strength.
 - b. **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.
 - c. **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
 - d. Consequence – Victorious living. Abundant Life. Joy, Peace, Fruits of the Spirit.

To me, this is the good news. Not that Jesus came to the earth to die for me. Yes, that is part of it because without that the rest couldn't happen.

But the real good news is this. Jesus came to live with me. In me. His life in me. That I may have His life in me. That's good news. And that is Immanuel.